Supporting the Social Emotional Needs of Young Children in Maine

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Reasons for the Social Emotional Project

• Anecdotal evidence that child care providers are seeing an increase in behavior challenges that are beyond their capacity to address.
• Need for comprehensive data collection and research on underlying causes. How big is this problem? Why is this happening? Report back to legislature.
• Develop and implement strategies to provide evidence-based interventions and reduce expulsions. Improve outcomes, reduce future costs.

“It is important that Maine take a closer look at the causes and possible remedies to this problem.”
- Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs
Four Major Steps in the Study

- **Survey** of child care providers/teachers – in centers and family child care settings, Head Starts, and public pre-K.
- **A state policy landscape** – what is happening and working well in other states.
- **Maine policy landscape** – what is happening and working well in Maine.
- Development of recommendations for Maine.

State Policy Issues

- **Professional Development** Focused on Social Emotional Learning and Development
- **Early Childhood Consultation** (including Mental Health)
- **Involuntary and Voluntary Dismissal**
- **Child Screening/Assessment** for Social Emotional Problems and Strengths
- **Parent Education, Engagement, and Support**
- **Early Childhood Special Education** (Early Intervention/Part C & Preschool Special Education/Part B)

Examples in Maine

- Professional Development
- Early Childhood/Mental Health Consultations
- Child Screening/Assessment
- Parent Education, Engagement, and Support
- Early Childhood Special Education
Examples from Other States

Questions?

Discussion

• What is your experience with social-emotional issues with young children and families?

• What is the role of pediatricians and family medicine in addressing these issues, and ways to integrate your work with community-based programs?

• What services or ideas do you think would be important for the study to consider as part of recommendations?
THANK YOU!